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REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18-20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, and 34 remain pending in the application. Original claim 3, now incorporated into claim 1 by amendment, has never been rejected over prior art, and its rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 was withdrawn according to item 2 of the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 3 should have been indicated as allowable, or objected-to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

As such, entry of the accompanying amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is requested, as it places the claims into condition for allowance and raises no new issues. In the alternative, entry of the amendment is proper since the outstanding Office Action was improperly made final, in that not all claims were addressed in the outstanding Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) variously over Carroll et al. in view of Drelich and/or Zimmerman et al.

All claims, save original claim 3, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious variously over Carroll et al. (WO 97/45259) in view of Drelich (U.S. Patent no. 2,880,113) and/or Zimmerman et al. (U.S. Patent no. 4,845,583). Applicants traverse these bases for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Applicants reiterate their comments in traverse of the rejections as applied to Carroll et al., Drelich and Zimmerman et al., as previously set forth in their last response.

Notably, none of the cited references discloses or suggests a moisture vapor permeable, substantially liquid impermeable composite sheet material comprising (1) a moisture vapor permeable monolithic polymeric film comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of a block polyether ester copolymer, a poly(etherimide) ester copolymer, or a combination thereof, having a first side and a second side, (2) a first nonwoven layer comprising a moisture vapor permeable powder-bonded nonwoven layer, said powder-bonded layer comprising a nonwoven web of fibers, wherein greater than 95 weight percent of the fibers in the nonwoven web are compatible with said polymeric film, said first nonwoven layer being adhered to the first side of the polymeric film by extrusion of said film onto said first nonwoven layer,

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and (3) *a second moisture vapor permeable nonwoven layer adhered to the second side of the film, wherein said second nonwoven layer is not a powder-bonded layer.*
(Claim 1, emphasis added).

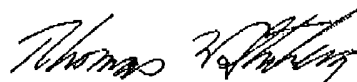
As such, even in combination the references fail to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to the present claims.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: _____

5/11/04

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